

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

Tuesday, May 16, 1972

★ ★ ★ ★

TV and Radio Programs
in Accent Section

Family Has File in Child Court

By Thomas G. Lubenow
of The Journal Staff

The family of Arthur Herman Bremer has a thick file in Milwaukee County Children's Court.

There is only one reference in this record to Arthur, now 21. That was recorded on May 28, 1968, when Mrs. Bremer and Arthur's youngest brother, Roger, now 18, were interviewed by a social worker at the Children's Court Center.

"During the interview there appeared to be a difference between Mrs. Bremer's perception of Arthur Bremer. . . . Roger stated he didn't get along with Arthur and described him as 'strange.'

"Mrs. Bremer complimented Arthur for never getting into trouble."

Moved Last August

Arthur and Roger and their parents moved to their present home at 1300 S. 15th Pl. — a lower flat in a dirty gray building in a deteriorating neighborhood — last August. Arthur moved out within two months.

The father, William, 58, said he had not seen his son since Arthur left in October. His wife, 57, had tried but failed, he said.

"Sylvia would take him food, clothes and fresh fruit — apples — to his place," the father continued. "But, she never got to see him. He worked. They left notes for each other."

Arthur was the third of four sons. The two oldest are Theodore, 34, of 2523 W. Carpenter Ave., and William, 32, whom Theodore described as a drifter. The father has been a truck driver for Krohn Cartage Co. for 30 years.

He is blind in the right eye. He said he lost the eye at age 9 when a thorn pierced it.

The elder Bremer said he was not told of his son's arrest in the assassination attempt until he returned from work and two FBI agents came to the home. At first the family refused to talk to reporters and as a small crowd of neighbors gathered outside, someone inside put pieces of cardboard into the front windows to prevent anyone from looking in.

When they consented to see newsmen, Bremer and Theodore talked in the small kitchen, which was further crowded by two steel dog cages. Reporters and television cameramen trooped into the home past midnight.

No Mention of Wallace

The family was as much overwhelmed by the presence of the television camera crews and other newsmen as they were by the events of the day.

Theodore Bremer said the family was not ready to accept the fact that Arthur was responsible for "a horrible political shooting."

"He never mentioned anything about Wallace," his father said. "The last election
Turn to Family, page 10, col. 3

From page 1

he was just like I was — a Humphrey man."

His father claimed that Arthur had joined the 12th Ward unit of the Democratic Party here, but officials at party headquarters said they could find no record of his membership.

"If he is accused of this, he must be really sick," his father continued.

He said his son was "a good boy . . . (and) his grades were passable."

The elder Bremer said his son had gone out for football at South Division High. He

was injured, however, and quit the team.

But this was not the recollection of school officials. A former football coach at South Division, James F. Powers, recalled that Arthur came out for the team in his sophomore year and played the entire season, although he was only a third string guard.

The father said Arthur never talked about a girl and never owned a gun — "not while he was in my house."

"He never even had a bow and arrow," interjected Theodore.

The father said he was aware of the fact that Arthur had gotten into trouble involving a gun since he had left home, but did not know details.

Court records show that on Nov. 18, 1971, at 9:45 p.m., Bremer was parked in the 7600 block of N. Santa Monica Blvd., Fox Point, in a no parking zone.

Police who investigated reported that Bremer was carrying a .38 caliber revolver and that he had two boxes of shells on the front seat. He was arrested.

He appeared the next day on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon before County Judge Christ T. Seraphim, who asked the arresting officer:

"Is there some question about his mental capacity?"

"Yes, sir," the officer replied.

"What makes you think so?" the judge asked.

"He is completely incoherent," said the policeman.

"He doesn't understand anything that we have told him."

He Paid \$38

Seraphim ordered Dr. Paul Purtell to examine Arthur. Purtell ruled that Arthur was legally sane. On Dec. 8 Bayfield County Judge Walter H. Cate, sitting here, found him guilty of disorderly conduct after an assistant district attorney recommended the charge be reduced. Cate imposed a total fine and court costs of \$38.

The elder Bremer said it was the only time he had known his son to get into trouble.

Theodore Bremer said his brother had obtained a lawyer in Maryland and that the family would go to Maryland if they could help him. He said the lawyer had instructed them not to speak with newsmen.